

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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O P 081235Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6183

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONGKONG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 374

HONGKONG PASS AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI SWINGS WILDLY AT OPPOSITION AND FOREIGN  
COUNTRIES IN CONTEXT OF L.N. MISHRA KILLING

REF: NEW DELHI 373 (NOTAL)

1. IN A REPORTEDLY HIGHLY EMOTIONAL AND ANGRY SPEECH AT  
A JANUARY 7 MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN NEW DELHI FOR MURDERED  
RAILWAY MINISTER L.N. MISHRA, PRIME MINISTER GANDHI CONDEMNED  
THE ATMOSPHERE OF VIOLENCE WHICH HAD BEEN GROWING AMONG YOUTH  
AND LABOR IN INDIA. SHE BLAMED "THOSE WHO TALKED OF DEMOCRACY,  
NONVIOLENCE AND TRUTH" AS BEING RESPONSIBLE AND CHARGED THAT  
SHE KNEW WHAT JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN MEANT WHEN HE SAID THAT  
MISHRA WAS NOT HIS TARGET. "EVERYONE KNOWS WHO THE TARGET  
IS . . . I AM NOT SCARED OF DEATH." SHE CHARGED THAT THE  
PEOPLE ENGAGED IN AGITATIONS DID NOT REALIZE WHAT THEY WERE  
DOING "TO THIS LOVELY COUNTRY"; SHE SAID SHE HAD WARNED  
AGAINST SUCH ACTIVITIES AND PERSONS SEVERAL TIMES BUT NO ONE  
HAD LISTENED AND SOME HAD LAUGHED (ONE PAPER, THE EXPRESS)

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POTED HER AS SAYING "WHAT I SAID ABOUT CIA WAS ALSO JOKED

ABOUT IN PARLIAMENT").

2. MRS. GANDHI CHARGED THE OPPOSITION WITH FOCUSING ON CORRUPTION AND EDUCATIONAL AND ELECTORAL REFORMS WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS FACING "STARVATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND SLOW PROGRESS ON ACCOUNT OF LOW PRODUCTION." THE PEOPLE HAD TO DECIDE IN WHICH DIRECTION THE COUNTRY WAS GOING AND SHE CHARGED ATTEMPTS WERE BEING MADE TO DIVERT THE PEOPLE'S ATTENTION FROM BASIC QUESTIONS. SHE EXPRESSED HER CONVICTION THAT MAHATMA GANDHI WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE BASIC ECONOMIC POLICIES OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF LARGE, BASIC INDUSTRIES IF HE HAD LIVED. GANDHI DIED BECAUSE HE HELD TO HIS PRINCIPLES AND WAS ACCUSED OF BEING AN ENEMY OF THE COUNTRY. CERTAIN GROUPS IN INDIA ZEDAY FELT MRS. GANDHI WAS THE ENEMY BUT "WE MUST FOLLOW OUR IDEALS AND POLICIES EVEN IF WE HAVE TO DIE FOR THEM."

3. TURNING TO FOREIGN INFLUENCES, MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT STRONG, MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA WAS BEING RUN BY SOME FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND THIS WAS EVIDENT FROM THEIR PRESS WHICH GAVE THE IMPRESSION NOTHING POSITIVE HAD BEEN DONE IN INDIA. SOME COUNTRIES HAD BEEN ANNOYED BY INDIA'S INDEPENDENT DECISION-MAKING ON DOMESTIC AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL MATTERS, AND SOME FOREIGN LEADERS HAD TOLD HER THIS WAS WHY THEY DID NOT SIDE WITH INDIA. SOME MAJOR POWERFUL COUNTRIES WANTED TO HUMBLE AND EVEN "FINISH INDIA" AND THE FORCES SPEARHEADED BY J.P. NARAYAN WERE ONLY PLAYING THEIR GAME.

4. COORENT: MRS. GANDHI SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY AND WE ARE DEPENDENT ON THE PRESS FOR THIS REPORT. THE OCCASION WAS AN EMOTIONAL ONE AND PERHAPS SHE MAY HAVE BEEN "CARRIED AWAY". HER COMMENTS, HOWEVER, FOR THAT VERY REASON MAY CONVEY BOTH REALISTICALLY AND VIVIDLY HER INNER FEELINGS. THEY SIGNAL THAT WHEN CONFORONTED WITH A SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEM, THE TEMPTATION TO FALL BACK ON THE FOREIGN BOGY AND TO LINK IT WITH THE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION IS STILL IRRESISTIBLE, AND IN INDIA "BIG POWERS" AND "FOREIGN COUNTRIES" WHICH ARE DOING "BAD" THINGS ARE STILL ALMOST UNIVERSALLY SEEN AS CODE WORDS FOR THE US. THEY UNDERSCORE MRS. GANDHI'SIOENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN CRITICISM, AND WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES IN THE LAST

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FEW DAYS OF HER PRIVATE IRRITATION AT RECENT ATTACKS ON HER IN THE US PRESS. THEY MAY ALSO REFLECT HER CONTINUED ANNOYANCE AT FOREIGN "PRESSURE" ON INDIA ON NUCLEAR MATTERS.

5. THE GREAT POLITICAL GUXE IN INDIA THESE WEEKS IS WHETHER MRS. GANDHI WILL CALL A "SNAP" ELECTION SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY WHIP TOLD US LAST NIGHT HE WAS ALMOST SURE SHE WOULD AND, INDEED, HER SPEECH ON

MISHRA SOUNDED REMARKABLY LIKE THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF  
CAMPAIGN ADDRESSES IN WHICH THE KEY THEMES ARE: THEOPPOSITION  
IS PURSUING FALSE OR AT LEAST SECONDARY ISSUES WHILE SHE AND  
CONGRESS ARE FOCUSED ON THE "REAL" PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY;  
THE OPPOSITION IS THE PARTY OF "VIOLENCE"; AND THE OPPOSITION  
IS PLAYING THE GAME OF THE FOREIGNERS WHO WISH INDIA ILL.  
IF THIS LAST ELEMENT BECOMES A MAJOR ONE IN HER CAMPAIGN,  
WE MAY HAVE ROUGH WATER IN INDO-US RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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